

Chapter 2.1.1 – Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Article 2.1.1.7

General Comment:

At the 70th General Session, the United States understood that the International Committee voted to accept the concept of “FMD infection” and incorporate this concept into the Chapter, *and that the FMD and Other Epizootics Commission would further study the other proposed changes (i.e. reduction in time periods required to regain FMD free status) and present their recommendations in their next report.* The change is now reflected in Article 2.1.1.7 of the 2002 Edition of the *Code*. The United States continues to be very concerned with the “adopted” change because the testing methodologies required for surveillance of non-structural proteins (surveillance that is required if a country is to regain free status within a shorter time-frame) have not been validated. Careful evaluation and study are required for significant changes. The United States does not support a recommendation for surveillance based on testing that has not been completely validated. Without this validation, a two year waiting period for recovery of free status is more appropriate than 18 months.

Current OIE proposed text:

Article 2.1.1.22.

When importing from FMD free countries or zones where vaccination is practised, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for fresh meat of bovines (excluding feet, head and viscera)

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from animals which:

- 1) [comes from animals which] have been kept in the FMD free country or zone where vaccination is practised since birth, or which have been imported in accordance with Article 2.1.1.10., Article 2.1.1.11. or Article 2.1.1.12.;

- [a) have remained in the exporting free country or zone for at least 3 months prior to slaughter;]

- 2)[b)] have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* [(located in the free zone, when the animals originate from such a zone)] and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for FMD with favourable results;

- [2) comes from deboned carcasses:

- a) from which the major lymphatic glands have been removed;

- b) which, prior to deboning, have been submitted to maturation at a temperature above + 2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter, and in which the pH value of the meat was below 6.0 when tested in the middle of both the longissimus dorsi.

If the meat is to be imported into a country or a zone of equivalent FMD status or into an infected country in which the virus types used in the vaccines are the same, the maturation and deboning processes may not be required.]

Suggested text:

Article 2.1.1.22.

When importing from FMD free countries or zones where vaccination is practised, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for fresh meat of bovines (excluding feet, head and viscera)

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat [comes from animals which:]

- 1) comes from animals which [have been kept in the FMD free country or zone where vaccination is practised since birth, or which have been imported in accordance with Article 2.1.1.10., Article 2.1.1.11. or Article 2.1.1.12.;

- a) have remained in the exporting free country or zone for at least 3 months prior to slaughter;

[2)]b) have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* [(located in the free zone, when the animals originate from such a zone)] and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for FMD with favourable results;

- 2) comes from deboned carcasses:

- a) from which the major lymphatic glands have been removed;
 - b) which, prior to deboning, have been submitted to maturation at a temperature above + 2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter, and in which the pH value of the meat was below 6.0 when tested in the middle of both the longissimus dorsi.

If the meat is to be imported into a country or a zone of equivalent FMD status or into an infected country in which the virus types used in the vaccines are the same, the maturation and deboning processes may not be required.

Rationale: Leave the text unchanged. The OIE has not presented the technical data to support removing the maturation and de-boning mitigation procedures. As pointed out in the general comments under Article 2.1.1.7, the test for non-structural proteins has not been validated. Moreover, the test works well as a herd test; however, when exporting fresh individual carcasses, it is quite likely that virus could be carried in one as a result of an animal having been infected but not detected with a herd test. The maturation and de-boning procedures for fresh meats mitigate this possibility. Therefore, the United States cannot support this change without the proper scientific documentation to support it.